

THE HOFMEISTER - HUFFMASTER FAMILY

Three Hofmeister sons from Wurtemberg, Germany came to New York in the United States of America around 1835. One of the brothers remained in New York where, it is rumored, he became quite wealthy. The other two brothers wanted to look over their new country before they settled down.

The travelers got as far south as Alabama when the third and youngest brother fell in love with a young lady that he met there. He decided that he had traveled enough. Twenty-seven year old Charles Hofmeister (b. 1815) and Mis Vica "Vicie" McLendon (b. 1822) were married near Centerville, Bibb County, Alabama, on November 7, 1842.

Leaving the love-birds, the second brother continued with his travels. He finally stopped and settled near Houston, Texas.

Charles Hofmeister had learned the shoemaking trade and was a cobbler. Soon after they were married the couple went to Mobile, Alabama, to make their home. Perhaps Charles thought that he would have more work in a larger place, but for whatever reason, they went to Mobile and were living there where all six of their children were born.

Some of Charles' descendants say that Charles and his brother from Texas both fought in the Civil War and that his brother was killed. Charles came through the war with no injuries, as far as we know. Five years after the war he and Vica appear in the 1870 Lauderdale County, Mississippi census, living near Obediah in Beat 3. Charles was then 55 years old and had Americanized his name to Hofmaster. He gave his birthplace as Wurtemberg.

It must have been soon after 1870 that Charles went to Mobile on a business trip. It may have been that he went to check on the reconstruction problems there following the war. There was lawlessness and rioting in most of the towns and in many places the streets were not safe. Could be that they wanted to return to their home in Mobile and he was going to see if conditions were improved. His family never saw him again.

Vicie waited and watched for him, but he never came back. In about two months after he left, a gentleman came by their home and asked the family what Hofmaster had looked like. They described him and the man shook his head.

"Yes," he said, "That was him that I saw."

The man said that he had found Charles' body beside the railroad tracks down near Enterprise in Clark County, Mississippi, and had buried him. He had been waylaid by some assassin, apparently, but the family never did find out what happened.

Vicie and her three unmarried sons moved up to Kemper County where they lived on a farm near Prismatic. Two of the Hofmaster boys never did marry. These two and the Mother are said to be buried at Bethel Church Cemetery in Kemper County. The graves are unmarked.

Charles' and Vica's six children were:

- § 1. FLORAN PINKNEY HOFMASTER 1845-1887. His story on following page.
2. THOMAS A. HOFMASTER 1848- , did not marry. Bur. Bethel Ch, Kemper Co.
3. MARTHA JANE HOFMASTER 1850- m. S.A. Zacchariah Dollar, 1868, moved to Texas.
4. MARY HOFMASTER 1853- m. Womack, lived in Simpson Co, Miss.
5. LEWIS HOFMASTER 1855- , did not marry.
6. REV. CHARLES AVERY HOFMASTER 1858-1929, m. Eveline Scitz, 1885, lived Neshoba Co, a Bapt. minister. Both bur. Golden Grove Cem.

FLORAN PINKNEY HOFMASTER (SR.)

Floran P. Hofmaster was the oldest child of Charles and Vica Hofmaster. he was born in Mobile in 1845 where his dad was a shoemaker. The family moved to Lauderdale County, Mississippi at about the time of the Civil War, apparently staying there until the war had ended.

Around 1870, Floran met and married Miss Martha Jane Stephens, who was called 'Pat', and they were married. They lived in Kemper a while but later moved to Neshoba County where it is believed Floran bought a farm. They lived in Neshoba County the rest of their lives, and raised their seven children there.

Floran died in Neshoba County in 1887 and was buried in the Golden Grve Cemetery. Pat (b.1852) died in 1937 and is buried beside Floran.

Their oldest son, Lewis, came to Pine Springs about 1805-6.

Children:

I. LEWIS JASPER HUFFMASTER

Born: 1874, Kemper Co, Miss. Died: 1839, bur. Rose Hill Cem, Meridian
Married: Allie Rebecca Miller (1880-1960)

A farmer, Lewis Huffmaster never seemed to care much for owning his own land. Perhaps he liked to farm but thought it was too much bother to be a landowner. He married in 1896 and he and his wife lived about the area where he worked on various farms. He worked for a gentleman named Pinkston for a time, but around 1906 he came to Pine Springs to work for Sam (H.) Bozeman.

Sam Bozeman had bought the 80 acres, which was the south half of the southeast quarter of Section 9, from Joe Wright in 1905. Sam had borrowed money to pay for the land from Mr. G.B.Barr.

Lewis and Allie lived in a little house that was on the place while Lewis put in a crop. They did pretty good that year and Bozeman had asked him to stay on again for the coming year. Sam mortgaged the 80 acres to Mr. Barr again in January of 1907. That August, Sam Bozeman died. Mr. Barr foreclosed on the land the following year and took it over.

Barr didn't really want the land, he was more interested in getting back the money that he had loaned. He tried to get Huffmaster to buy the farm, but Huffmaster didn't want it, either. It was hard times for farmers then and Lewis may have felt that there was no need to own land and have to worry about payments and taxes and getting crop liens when he was doing as well without all that worry. Looking about at the farmers in Pine Springs that owned their land, he could see that he was doing about as well as they were. He told Barr that he would stay on and farm on shares, but he didn't want to buy.

The Huffmasters continued on in Pine Springs for several years and became a part of the community. They had four children who were born in Kemper County before they came and they added two more to their little brood while they lived there. The children attended Pine Springs School and one daughter married a local son while they were there. They took part in the local picnics, egg-hunts, revival meetings that the community enjoyed for recreation.

In 1910, G.W.Barr must have finally talked Lewis Huffmaster into buying the 80 acres. Probably had an unusually good crop that year. Lewis bought the farm but sold it in 1912, two years later, to D.C.Hull,

the Superintendent of Education that lived in Meridian.

The Huffmasters did not stay long in Pine Springs after that. They worked the place for Hull until 1915, when Mr. E. L. Harris (Pat) bought it to make a home for his bride, Miss Pearl Bozeman.

It is not known where Lewis and Allie Huffmaster lived after they moved away from the community. His children were beginning to marry and settle in Lauderdale County, so it is doubtful if he ever returned to Kemper. He died in 1939 and was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Meridin. Allie Rebecca lived until 1960.

Children:

1. WILLIAM JAMES HUFFMASTER 1898-1945, m. Eunice Hinson, Lauderdale Co, 1923
Children: (First four b. in Kemper Co; last two in Pine Springs)

A. Allie Margaret Huffmaster 1926- , m. William E. Thompson

B. William James "Bill" Huffmaster 1938- , m. O Winham of La.

2. FLORENCE VIOLA HUFFMASTER 1900-1940, m. Lewis Felix Vincent of Pine Springs. Rented rooms on the upstairs floor from Mrs. "Phronie" Bozeman, Sam's widow, when they first married, later moved to Meridian.

Children: (See Vincent family)

A. Bonnie Francis Vincent 1920- , m. William F. Hudson, 1941

B. Guy Alfred Vincent 1925Tx- m. Elizabeth Mosley Stewart, Daleville

3. BONNIE REE HUFFMASTER 1902- , m. Iulus Allen, 1919, La Pento, Ark.
Bought a farm in Sec.18,T-7,R-15E, the other side of Okatibbee Creek.

Children:

483-3720 - A. Howard C. Allen 1921 Cypert, Ark m. Evola Jones

483-3990 B. Julius E. Allen 1922 " " m. Janese Salter

C. Dorothea Ree Allen 1924 Laud. Co. m. Ransom Gough, 1947

D. Margie Ruth Allen 1926 " " m. James Thrash

E. Marilyn Allen 1929- m. Kenneth Duett

4. BESSIE MAE HUFFMASTER 1905-1986, m. Charles Preston Husbands, 1920, Ark.

Children:

493-1051 A. Doris Mae Husbands 1921Ark m. (1)Lewis Musgrove 1941, Div.1951
(2)Cecil R. Seale 1952 (d.1980Al). Now living in Meridian, gave much of this information of Huffmaster family.

B. Helen Elizabeth Husbands 1926Ms- m. Howard Blackwell 1945.

C. Mary Evelyn Husbands 1934Ms- Gene C. Bond 1952 (d.1980)

5. LEWIS EDWARD HUFFMASTER 1907- , m. Etta Ivy, Clarke Co, Ms (d1980Al)

A. Lewis Huffmaster, Jr. 19 - m(1)Linda Miller (2)Eleanor , Cal.

B. Bobby Charles Huffmaster 19 - m. (1)Trebbie Welborn (2)Mary

Ann Boland (3)Martha McClung

C. Janelle Huffmaster 19 - m. George Ray Jenkins

D. Carl Everett Huffmaster 19 -19 , m. (1)Marion Shouse, Cal.

(2)Janelle Draper, Cal. (3) Jurlean Pinkerton, Ala.

6. IVA OPAL HUFFMASTER 1911- , m. (1)Earl Patrick Hinson (1905-1967), brother of Eunice Hinson (2)Dewitt Smith of Bonita, Laud. Co.

Children:

A. Iva Grace Hinson 1927-m. (1)Bobby Wayne Bryant (2)Charles Cole

II. JOHN WILLIAM HUFFMASTER

Born: 1875, Neshoba or Kemper Co, Ms Died: 1938

Married: Vannie Cornelia Watson

Children: Unknown.

went to Lepanto, Ark. c Lewis in 1918
To Raise cotton

483-738
- 483-738
- 483-738
- 483-738

LEPANTO,
POINSETT CO.,
ARK.
1918-
1922

To
Raise
Cotton

III. REV. MATTHEW ALEXANDER "MASS" HUFFMASTER

Born: 1878, Neshoba Co, Miss. Died: 1966, bur. Bethel Cem, Neshoba
Married: Viva Eulala Lisenbee of Saraland, Ala.

This brother of Lewis Huffmaster came down to Pine Springs in 1910
and rented land in Section 16 and put in a crop that year.

Children:

- A. Viva R. Huffmaster 1904-
 - B. Havana Huffmaster 1906-
 - C. Mary Sue Huffmaster 1909-
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IV. MARSHALL LACEY HUFFMASTER

Born: 1884, Neshoba Co, Miss. Died: 1963

Married: Irene Mae Spears of Kemper County.

Children: Unknown.

V. FLORAN PINKNEY HUFFMASTER, JR. (TWIN)

Born: 1886, Neshoba Co, Miss. Died: 1930

Married: Bertha Spears of Kemper Co.

Children: ^{KARL}

VI. BABY GIRL HUFFMASTER (TWIN)

Born: 1886

Died: at birth

VII. CHARLES THOMAS "DUCK" HUFFMASTER

Born: 1900, Neshoba Co.

Died: 1936

Married: Cora Edna Glass

Children:

W O GLASS

JANIE RUTH GLASS - 483-5005